

Washington, DC -- Congressman Vern Buchanan announced today that Manatee County has been awarded a \$193,641 anti-crime grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. The Manatee County Sheriff's Office will use the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program grant to address issues associated with corrections.

"The JAG program allows state and local governments to use federal funds for local solutions to local problems," said Buchanan. "This funding will help the Manatee County Sheriff's office provide a safe, secure, functional, and humane environment for staff and inmates. It will also help the correctional facility operate professionally, respectfully, and efficiently."

The Manatee County Sheriff's Department will use part of the money for a jail facility and services study.

Corrections Bureau Chief, Major Jamey Higginbotham said, "The Byrne Grant has been instrumental in the past to establish and support our inmate vocational programs. We are grateful to be awarded this year's \$193,000; a portion of which will be set aside to address the problems of jail overcrowding."

The total amount of federal funding available through the JAG program this year is \$292 million. Funds awarded through the formula grant program may be used for training, personnel, and equipment and information systems for law enforcement programs. Funding may also be used for prosecution and court programs, drug treatment programs, corrections programs and technology improvement programs.